AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 16, 18, 20 and 21, and cancel claims 17 and 19, as indicated below:

1-15. Cancelled.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing video information, wherein the video information includes consecutive images including at least one substantially redundant image, comprising:

means for receiving data indicative of which images in consecutive images in the video information are substantially redundant;

means responsive to the received data for removing the substantially redundant images;

means for compressing the video information without the substantially redundant images; and

means for storing the compressed video information and the data indicative of the substantially redundant consecutive images, wherein the data indicative of the substantially redundant consecutive images is stored in association with the compressed video information.

17. Cancelled.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for compressing video information, wherein the video information includes consecutive images including at least one substantially redundant image, comprising:

receiving data indicative of which images in consecutive images in the video information are substantially redundant;

removing the substantially redundant images according to the received data;

compressing the video information without the substantially redundant images; and

storing the compressed video information and the data indicative of the substantially redundant consecutive images, wherein the data indicative of the

substantially redundant consecutive images is stored in association with the compressed video information.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for decompressing stored and compressed digital video information having a frame rate corresponding to 24 frames per second, wherein the compressed digital video information was generated by eliminating substantially redundant consecutive images in uncompressed digital video information originating from a video signal having a frame rate of 29.97 frames per second, wherein the compressed digital video information has associated information, stored therewith, indicating where the substantially redundant consecutive images were located in the uncompressed digital video information, the method comprising:

    receiving the associated information indicating where the substantially redundant consecutive images were located in the uncompressed digital video information;

    decompressing the compressed digital video information to provide corresponding decompressed digital video information at a frame rate of 24 frames per second; and

    generating a video signal having a frame rate of 29.97 from the decompressed video signal by reintroducing the substantially redundant consecutive images according to the received information.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for decompressing stored and compressed digital video information having a frame rate corresponding to 24 frames per second, wherein the compressed digital video information was generated by eliminating substantially redundant consecutive images in uncompressed digital video information originating from a video signal having a frame rate of 29.97 frames per second, wherein the compressed digital video information has associated information, stored therewith, indicating where the substantially redundant consecutive images were located in the uncompressed digital video information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the associated information indicating where the substantially redundant consecutive images were located in the uncompressed digital video information;

means for decompressing the compressed digital video information to provide corresponding decompressed digital video information at a frame rate of 24 frames per second; and

means for generating a video signal having a frame rate of 29.97 from the decompressed video signal by reintroducing the substantially redundant consecutive images according to the received information.